# **Developing and Disseminating Tools to Address Substance Use Within Vulnerable Populations** Charlotte Workman, BS, CCRP<sup>2</sup>, Lesley Cottrell, PhD<sup>1</sup>, Melina Danko, MS<sup>2</sup>, Rebecca Campbell, MA<sup>2</sup>, Jackie Newson<sup>3</sup>, Mark "Cody" Smith, MD<sup>4</sup>, Judy Romano, MD<sup>5</sup>, Alleda Taylor, LSW<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Pediatrics & West Virginia University <sup>5</sup> Wheeling, WV <sup>4</sup> Department of Pediatrics, School of Medicine, WV <sup>4</sup> Departme

## Background

One in eight children (0-17 years) lives in a household with at least one parent who has a substance use disorder.<sup>1</sup> These children are at increased risk for trauma and neglect leading to changing environments that are not supportive of their development.<sup>2, 3</sup> IMPACT WV was developed to provide:

- •Health care equity for Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) babies and their families
- Early assessment and increased access to delivery of social services
- Wrap around social services and coordinated health supports to address the needs of the whole family, including caregivers

The IMPACT WV collaborative has:

- Produced best practices, tools, and guides for rural families and providers
- Facilitated coordinated discussions around substance use, its subsequent effects on the family and children
- •Addressed the highly influential social determinants in their lives

## Objectives

**Objectives:** 

- Review existing tools developed to address substance use among women and children
- Highlight gaps in training and tools that exist
- Review new tools developed to address those gaps

## Methods or Description of the Program

IMPACT WV has produced a variety of tools to address the needs of families experiencing substance use.

Tools include:

- Community trainings
- Expert blogs
- Online learning portal

Needs are assessed through:

- Parent focus groups
- Provider surveys
- Meeting discussions
- Evaluation forms

## **Findings/Results**

A partner list has been established which tracks the number and quality of partnerships with new and existing partners and identifies relationships among our partners in order to provide support and services for the families.

- 174 partners have been identified
- •25 were associated with the coordinating center
- •Most of the respondents noted the network had either been "somewhat successful", "successful", or "very successful"
  - Figure 1 illustrates the structure of the partnership with the coordinating site at baseline.

Topics related to NAS that have been identified include:

- Substance use
- Neonatal abstinence syndrome
- Mental health
- Addressing challenging behaviors
- Adverse childhood experiences
- Child development

#### **Requested Training (Figure 2)**

Working with family members/ caregivers **11.94%** 

Developing and/or implmenting plans of self care **10.45%** 

> Care coordination with other providers 11.64%

> > **9800** require continued education or other for of professional development training.

## Conclusions

Particularly during periods of increased isolation (e.g., COVID-19), deleterious social determinant effects may heighten, particularly for vulnerable groups such as those who have, or still use substances. The tools developed through IMPACT WV have been designed to: a) identify the areas that need to be addressed to enhance services; and b) provide tools and information to give directly to families who may benefit.

### References

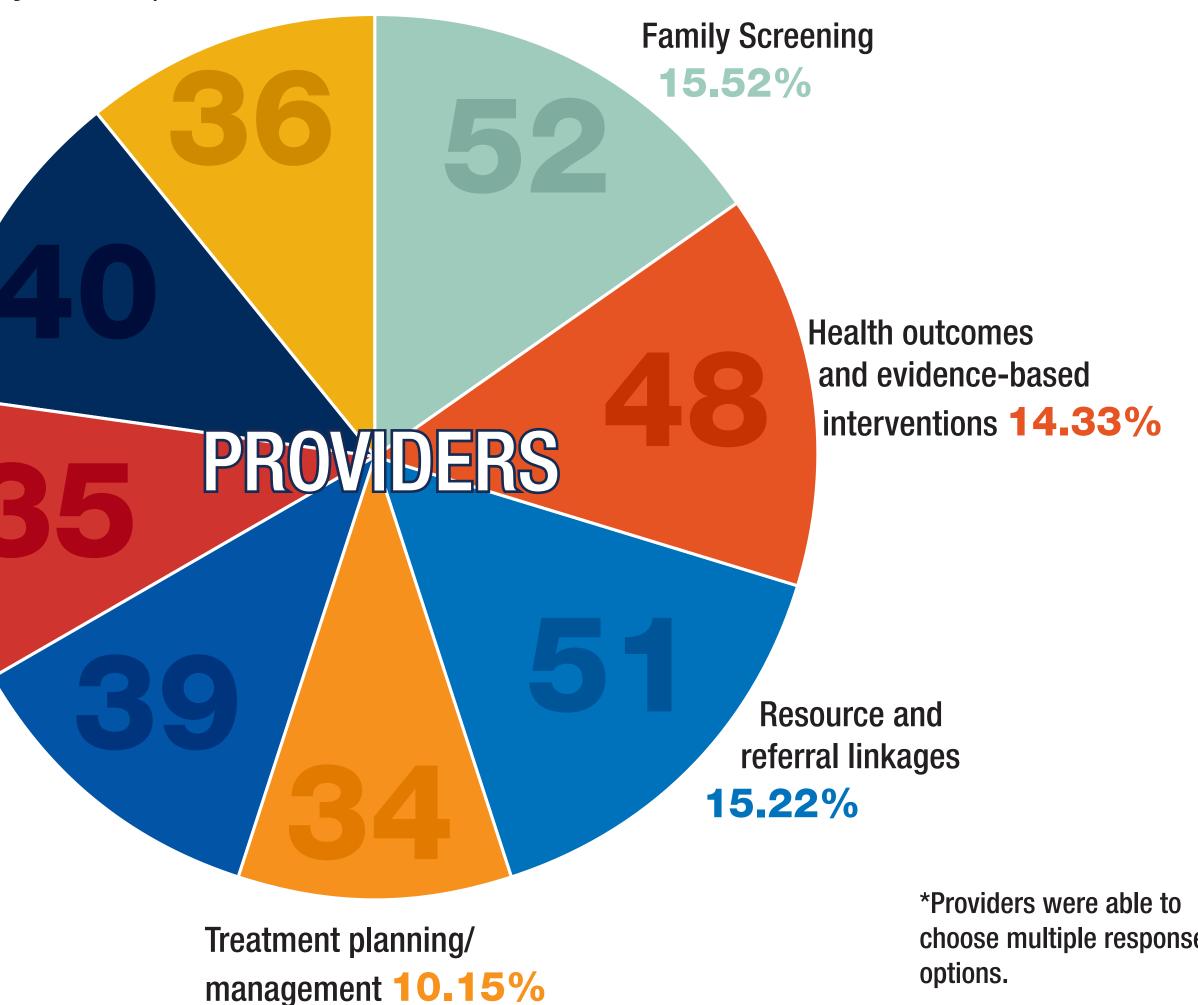
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#### **Network Map (Figure 1**

- - Parent support
  - Family strengthening
  - Education and employment
- Stigma Social services – housing and transportation, and finances

Addressing families needs (housing, safety, employment, etc) 10.75%



require continued education or other forms

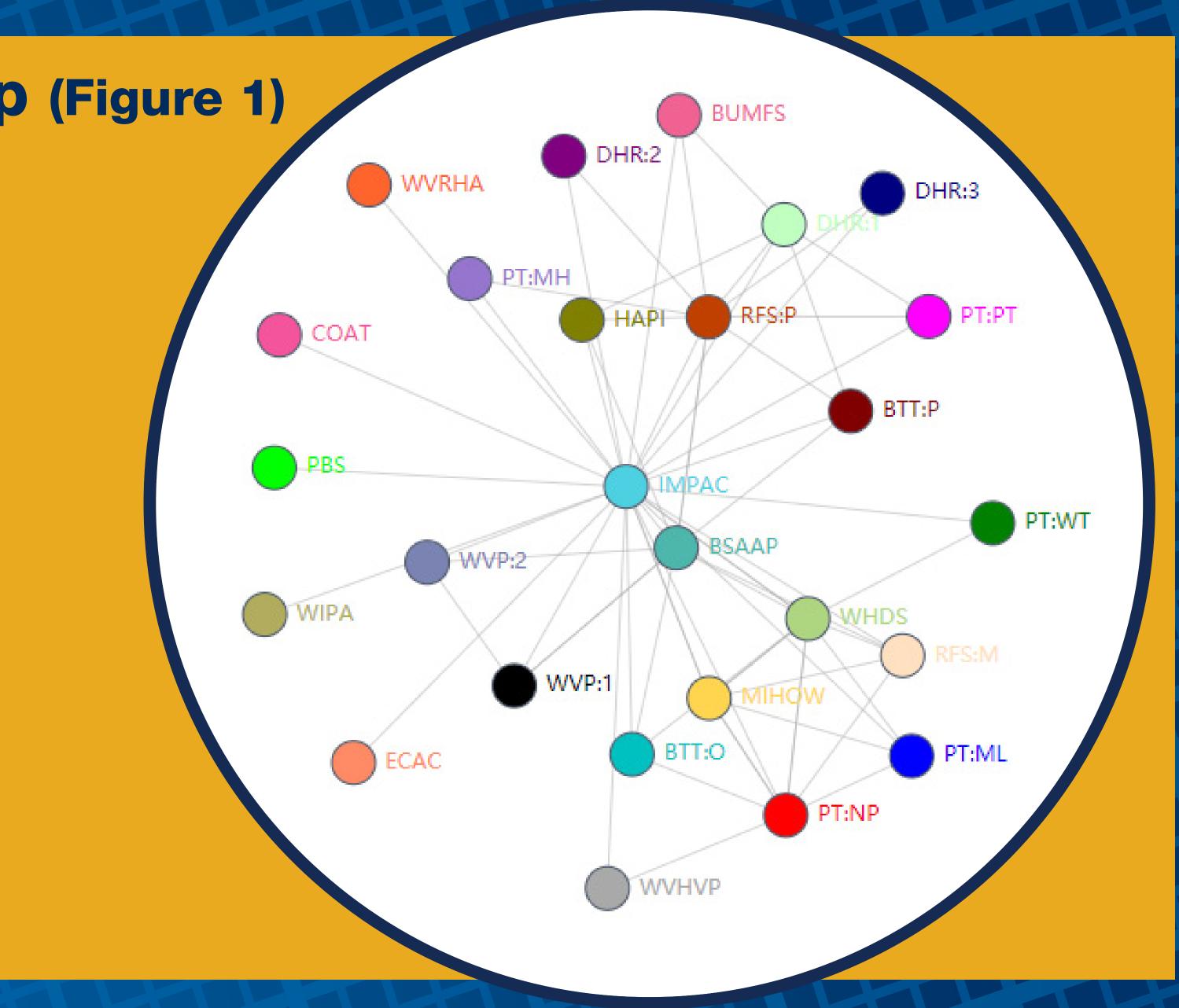
During COVID-19, a need for additional services was identified and a Community of Practice was held to compile resources and guidance for low, moderate and high-risk situations by life domain, adapting consent procedures for serving clients remotely, and establishing additional opportunities for increased communication remotely during the pandemic.

Figure 2 illustrates requested training from provider survey analysis. In order to provide service providers and families information about the topics, 12 online learning modules and a series of blogs were developed and 10 monthly Communities of Practice (CoP) have been completed.

Types of service provider respondents included:

- Advocacy
- Behavior support
- Communications
- Home visitors
- Mentors

As a result of the CoP, a Life Domain, Risk and Resource table with link was developed and a summary sheet of the COVID-19 CoP was distributed statewide.



- Patient navigators
- Pediatricians
- Social workers
- Program assistants and managers

QR Code for IMPACT WV Website: www.wvimpact.org



QR Code for Life Domain and Risk Level Chart:

